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Office of Regulatory Staff

December 6, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire Chief Clerk & Administrator Public Service Commission of South Carolina 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100 Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Expedited Petition of the Office of Regulatory Staff to Suspend and Hold Universal Service Fund Disbursements to Frontier Communications of the Carolinas, LLC

Docket No. 2019-352-C

Dear Ms. Boyd:

In consideration of Commission Order No. 2019-811 and the Notice of Continuation of December 3, 2019, the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") offers the following request and information.

ORS reviewed the records Frontier Communications of the Carolinas, LLC ("Frontier") provided thus far regarding Frontier's use of South Carolina Universal Service Funds ("USF"). Frontier's information suggests that Frontier made some investments in South Carolina. ORS is currently conducting a review of Frontier's utilization of USF. ORS anticipates it will be in a position to provide the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") with a report concerning our review of Frontier in January 2020. Frontier has cooperated with ORS and provided information and data responsive to ORS' requests for production. Frontier has agreed to continue its cooperation but reserves the right to raise objections.

ORS does not possess an evidentiary record at this time to make an injunctive-type showing to support the continued suspension of monthly USF payments to Frontier. ORS, therefore, no longer seeks continued authorization from the Commission to suspend and hold USF disbursements and respectfully requests the Commission authorize ORS to resume the disbursement of monthly USF payments to Frontier, which would include the funds to be disbursed in November.

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ORS reserves the right to raise the issue again with the Commission, should the ORS audit reveal information to warrant doing so. Based on this request, ORS does not believe that a continuation of the hearing of December 3rd to December 10th is necessary or beneficial and requests this hearing be cancelled.

Finally, ORS asks that the responsive pleading and any filing dates set in this matter be postponed or deferred until ORS has had the opportunity to complete its work and report its findings to the Commission. Frontier joins ORS in this request.

Please contact me and Mr. Terreni should you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

cc:

All Parties of Record (via e-mail) Joseph Melchers, Esquire (via e-mail) Josh Minges, Esquire (via e-mail)